

# American Library News

**Newsletter of the American Library - U.S. Consulate General, Johannesburg**  
Sharing Information Resources in the Gauteng, Free State and North West Provinces

**JUNE 2006**

## ■ **DEMOCRACY** ■

On June 14, Americans celebrate Flag Day. U.S. Independence Day, a major holiday, falls on July 4. These are occasions for American citizens to reflect on the meaning and importance of Democracy.

### ***What is Democracy?***

It can be directly translated from Greek as:  
***Rule by the people***

Or consider the famous quote from U.S. President Abraham Lincoln:

***“Government of the people, by the people  
and for the people”***

### **Pillars of Democracy:**

- Sovereignty of the people
- Government based upon consent of the governed
- Majority rule
- Minority rights
- Guarantee of basic human rights
- Free and fair elections
- Equality before the law
- Due process of law
- Constitutional limits on government
- Social, economic and political pluralism
- Values of tolerance, pragmatism and compromise

For more info on Democracy, visit the following website:

<http://www.democracy.gov>

Information is also available in the December 2005 E-Journal, Foundations of Democracy:

<http://usinfo.state.gov/journals/itdhr/1205/ijde/ijde1205.htm>

Those with good Internet access can also participate in webchats, after registering in advance. The June 14 webchat, led by judicial researcher Thomas Willging, focuses on **judicial ethics**:

Democracy  
Dialogues: Judicial  
Ethics- Web chat

**Thomas  
Willging**

**Date:** 14 June,  
2006

**Time:** 10 a.m.  
EDT (1400 GMT)



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For a judicial system to be fair and effective it is essential that its judges are uncompromised – that they are consistently impartial, independent and just. In the United States, safeguards exist to guide the ethical conduct of judges and prosecute those who violate those laws. Join Thomas Willging, a judicial researcher and ethics expert, for a webchat about preventing corruption and unethical practices on the bench.

Sign up: <http://usinfo.state.gov/utis/chatemailreg.php>

Enter chat: <http://12.44.14.73/iipchat>

### **The American Library in Johannesburg:**

3rd Floor, 1066 Bldg, cnr Pritchard & Harrison Sts

Telephone: (011) 838-3603 / Fax: (011) 838-3920 / Email: [ircjohannesburg@state.gov](mailto:ircjohannesburg@state.gov)

### **The Rosa Parks Library in Soweto:**

Ipelegeng Community Centre, 1283 Phera & Dlamini Sts, White City, Jabavu

Telephone: (011) 982-5580 / Fax: (011) 982-5844 / Email: [sowetoirc@yahoo.com](mailto:sowetoirc@yahoo.com)

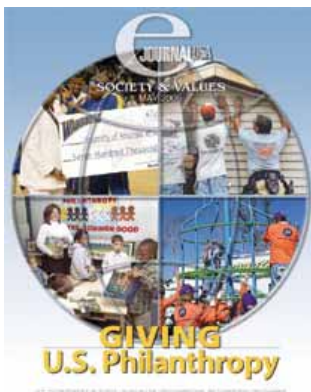
**E- Journals**: are electronic publications that examine major issues facing the United States and the international community. They include articles by a cross-section of government, NGO, academic, and private-sector experts, together with extensive bibliographies and Internet links.

**Current and Upcoming E-Journals:**

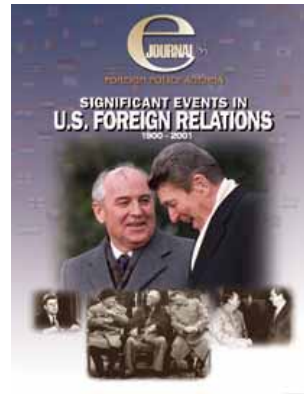
- Significant Events in U.S. Foreign Relations, 1900-2001
- Giving: U.S. Philanthropy
- Snapshot U.S.A.
- Changing the Global Energy Equation (07/06)
- Rebuilding and Resilience: The World Five Years After 9/11 (08/06)
- International Cooperation in Science (09/06)
- What To Do About Corruption (10/06)

*E-Journals can be downloaded from:*  
<http://usinfo.state.gov/pub/ejournals>

A hard copy of any current or previous E-Journal publication may be requested from the IRC in Johannesburg:  
[ircjohannesburg@state.gov](mailto:ircjohannesburg@state.gov)



This journal highlights several forms of giving and the activities of a wide variety of philanthropic organizations, some under the patronage of the rich and famous, and others created and operated by ordinary people. It also contains valuable resources for those who want to learn about nonprofit management, grant writing, and other topics related to modern philanthropy.



This issue of the *journal USA* examines how U.S. foreign relations have evolved over the past century, influenced by the legacy of America's founding ideals of protecting individual rights and freedom. Special features include five historical video excerpts and two photo galleries illustrating the Panama Canal and the Marshall Plan.

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**IRC Workshops and Meetings:**

- **June 14:**  
**Fundraising for NGOs**  
**(at the CBD Library)**
- **June 22 :**  
**Business Forum**  
**(at the Rosa Parks Library)**
- **June 29:**  
**Book Club Meeting**  
**(at the Rosa Parks Library)**

*For more details please contact the IRC*

**Book Club News**

Congratulations to the Book Club; they've published their first collection of poetry!

A copy is available in the IRC.

The Club's next step is to set up their own blog (weblog)